Dear Families, Friends and Students,

**Easter Focus:**
As our busy term comes to an end so too does the Lenten Season. This has been a time of reflection, sacrifice and self-renewal where we have all been asked to think about how we can become better people. We were privileged to share a prayerful and reverent re-enactment of the Stations Of The Cross which depicted the final hours in the life of Jesus Christ on earth. The Stations of the Cross also serve as a stark reminder of the humble manner in which Jesus was willing to set aside any privilege of deity in order to provide a path to salvation through His sacrifice.

This was beautifully and sensitively portrayed to our community by our Year 6 students. We acknowledge and thank the students for their positive involvement and participation and a big thank you and congratulations to Mr Luxton, Mrs Frawley and Miss Armes for their work in preparing the students.

**What a wonderful Term:**
Sometimes life seems to pass by very quickly and that certainly appears to be the case with this term. St Joseph’s is a very dynamic and diverse community and there has been much achieved in the last eleven weeks. In saying that, I want to acknowledge the wonderful ambassadors our students have been in many areas such as community service, sport, academic and social justice activities.

My thanks to all families and staff for their energy and commitment to the school. We have completed a very successful term together.

The staff and I have been reflecting on the term to see where we can improve. Already there are some encouraging signs of development as we measure our term of learning.

We have seen a genuine commitment to the following:
- Promoting our Catholic Identity.
- Consolidating Contemporary Learning Pedagogies with a focus on Literacy and Numeracy.
- Ongoing focus on Respect, Safety and Learning and Trust.
- Consolidating our KidsMatter Focus and the social and emotional needs of students and families.
- Maintaining high expectations to ensure success for all students.

We certainly aim for excellence and acknowledge that we can improve to achieve expected high standards. We are always happy to receive feedback which is valued and respected in helping us shape the work of the school. Please share your thoughts with staff or myself.

**Diocesan Assembly & Chrism Mass:**
In Week 9 eight students and myself travelled with staff and students from OJOR, St Alberts and St Joseph’s Barmera, to Pt Pirie to celebrate the Chrism Mass at St Mark’s Cathedral. It was a great experience to come together with Bishop Greg and many people from all over our diocese and celebrate this special Mass.
ANZAC DAY:
ANZAC Day falls in the holidays this year. However, I believe that it is important that our school promotes and shows respect for such a significant event. I wish to promote our Commemorative Ceremony that we will present tomorrow at 10.15am. As a fantastic P&F initiative, all our students will be presented with a Commemorative Coin to mark this special occasion. All parents/carers are invited to attend.

Parent/Teacher Interviews:
We sincerely thank all parents/caregivers for their positive and constructive feedback after our recent Parent/Teacher interviews. We value this as an opportunity for families to connect with their child’s education journey. It is an opportunity to engage an open dialogue on any number of topics, including your child’s progress, strengths and weaknesses, attitude and behaviour, relationships with their peers and teachers and advice on how to help at home. We openly welcome parental engagement and see this as critical in the development and learning of children.

P&F Community:
We again thank the generous Parents and Friends Community for their valued involvement in the Stations Of The Cross Liturgy. We thank them for their donation of the Hot Cross Buns. We also wish to again extend a welcome and invitation to new members.

P&F Comedy Cabaret:
I also wish to promote our upcoming Parent/Caregiver event on the 16th May. We will present a wonderful Comedy Cabaret performance by Hayley Ramsay. We are promoting this as a community event where we as parents can join together to have some fun and socialise in an enjoyable way. We hope to see you there. We will only have 100 tickets and they will be available from the front office early next term for $25. The performance will be held at the Lutheran Hall from 7.30pm. There will be more details later.

Staff news:
We wish to formally announce that Mrs Mikalya Luxton will be taking maternity leave from Term 4. We congratulate Mikalya and Tony on the exciting news of their impending first birth. Mrs Fiona Kupke will be joining Miss Allen in the 1/2 Unit for Term 4.

NAPLAN:
The NAPLAN testing will be conducted in the third week of Term 2, from Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th May. We distributed a letter and supporting information previously. All students are encouraged to participate in the tests. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as parental beliefs or philosophical objections to testing. These issues should be discussed with me directly early next term so that a course of action can be determined before the testing dates. Please contact me if you have any concerns or questions.

We congratulate Mikalya and Tony on the exciting news of their impending first birth. Mrs Fiona Kupke will be joining Miss Allen in the 1/2 Unit for Term 4.

Now it is time to relax away from the school routine as we re-energise for the next term. I hope you can enjoy some great times together at home - continuing to learn of course! Thank you for continuing to make our school such a great place for learning and growing.

Regards
Don DePalma
Principal

Year 6 students depicting the Easter Story

YATES
MENSWEAR

Please note Yates Menswear is currently undergoing renovations. Please enter through the main shop as normal and our friendly staff will point you in the right direction for all of your school wear needs.
Religious Education

Holy Week and Easter:
On Thursday 2nd April and Tuesday 7th April the school community of St Josephs, led by the Year 6 students celebrated Holy Week and Easter. This is the most significant week of the Catholic Church’s Liturgical Year.

Holy Week and the Crucifixion of Jesus were depicted through the Stations of the Cross. These 14 stations represent an event which occurred during Jesus’ Passion and finally his death at Calvary on Good Friday.

Easter Sunday was celebrated with a whole school liturgy concentrating on the joy of Jesus’ resurrection. Easter Sunday is day where Christian’s everywhere proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Parish Connection

ANZAC Day:
Anzac Day is a significant time for Australian’s everywhere. It is a time for us to stop and to remember the sacrifice many people have made in the search for peace in our world. Those who have died in war have enabled us to live in a country which is safe, where we have freedom to live our lives and faith without fear.

This year also marks The Anzac Centenary. On 25th April 1915, Australian and New Zealand troops landed on the beaches of Gallipoli in Turkey for the first major battle. Tomorrow we will remember this year’s ANZAC Day with a special Liturgy at 10.15am, led by our Year 7 students. We thank all who attend, especially the members of the Renmark RSL (Returned Servicemen League) who will be wearing their service medals. We thank them and their families for their sacrifice which enable us to live in this great country.

To further mark this ANZAC Centenary each students will receive a Commonwealth Commemorative Coin. These coins are a symbol of the sacrifice given by all those who have died in war, in particular the Military volunteers within the Australian Imperial Force during the Great War from 1914 to 1916.

Project Compassion: We wish to acknowledge the fantastic generosity, kindness and sacrifice of all our students who raised over $2300 for Project Compassion. This was an amazing effort which will support and help many families in need. Well done to the students and our whole community.

Susan Frawley
STUDENT WELLBEING

Congratulations to Taneesha Venables and Ava Lodge who were awarded the KidsMatter Champions recently.

Tony Luxton & The KidsMatter Team

Parent Reading Workshop

Reading at St Joseph’s School
We believe that listening to reading is one of the most supportive activities that we can do to help our children learn.
Our Key Literacy Teacher, Ruth Daws, will be conducting a Reading workshop for any people who are interested.

You are invited to come to the Activity Room on Thursday 7th May 2015 2.00pm or 7.30pm

Learning During Holidays

Holidays can be a complete slow down on the learning front. Sometimes learning is ‘lost’ too as our young people let go of their learning achievements in the relaxation of holidays. We encourage parents to see the potential of maintaining the energy with reading, spelling and tables mixed into the holiday routine so these skills are not lost but encouraged to grow through some different experiences. In this way students return to school alert to learning and engaged with the continuance of the skills and content from Term 1.

Star Student Awards presented at our recent assembly.

L-R: Arshvir Bhangoo, Chelsea Docking, Jemma Haines, Luca Blackwell, Angus Pitman, Jasleen Bhangoo, Emily Robertson, Eli McLeod.

L-R: Zoe Siviour, Max Logos, Charlotte Lucas, Alana Young, Murphy Strachan, Isabella Cant, Aidan Prokpoec, Shail Frawley, Amy Gibbons, Bradley Lehmann.
Year 7 Science at Renmark High School

On Tuesday the 1st of April the Year 7 students went to the Renmark high school for a Science lesson lead by Michael Young. The students were highly engaged and were able to use facilities and materials that are only accessible at the high school. The Year 7 visits to the Renmark High school science unit will continue next term.

Hannah Foody

Year 5/6 Netball

On Wednesday the 1st of April the Year 5/6 students participated in an internal round robin netball tournament at the Renmark netball courts. Each student displayed great sportsmanship and fun was had by all. A big thankyou to Mr Luxton, Mrs James and Reeni for all their help.

Hannah Foody
Year 7 Leadership Day

On Friday 27th March all of the Year 7 students from Renmark Primary School, Renmark North Primary School, Renmark West Primary School and St Joseph’s came together to share in a Leadership Day. Each student was involved in four different activities looking at leadership, teamwork, trust and organisation. The students were in groups mixed with students from the other schools and everyone had a great time.

THRASS in the class room

This week the staff continued their professional development with THRASS. We are pleased with the progress. We thank the parents who attended the Parent Information Session this week and appreciate their positive feedback.
We are buddies

The students of Miss Armes' Year 5/6 and Mr Reeks' Year 3/4 classes continue to create outstanding artwork. Their latest work has been painting colour wheels and weaving paper.

Autism Awareness

Last week, during Holy Week, it was also World Autism Awareness week. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. It is a spectrum condition, which means that, while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways. Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives but others may have accompanying learning disabilities and need a lifetime of specialist support. People with autism may also experience over- or under-sensitivity to sounds, touch, tastes, smells, light or colours.

How do people with autism see the world?

People with autism have said that the world, to them, is a mass of people, places and events which they struggle to make sense of, and which can cause them considerable anxiety. In particular, understanding and relating to other people, and taking part in everyday family and social life may be harder for them. As a Catholic Community we give witness to our faith through the way we care for all of God's people. The message of Easter and the message from Pope Francis calls us to care for those less fortunate than ourselves. However, as is well documented, there are also many successful and highly functioning autistic people, whom we should celebrate along with all the other inspirational people who live with disabilities.
**Canteen**

Volunteers are required to assist in the canteen for Term 2.
Wednesday 10.30-11.30
Friday 9.00-10.00
Friday 10.30-11.30
Please see Jami-Lee or Larissa if you are able to support them in any way.
Thank you.

**Quick Diary**

April 27 ~ Student Free Day
April 28 ~ 8.30am Coffee & Chat
April 28 ~ 9.30am Assembly by 3/4GR
May 1 ~ Performance: Monsters in my Wardrobe
May 5 ~ Parents & Friends meeting
May 8 ~ Mother's Day morning tea
May 8 ~ Mary MacKillop Performance
May 10 ~ Mother's Day

**SAPSASA Sport**

Congratulations to everyone who has recently participated in SAPSASA sports events.

On Monday 30th March there was netball and football and on Wednesday 8th April there was Cross Country.

Our netball team came third in the middle school competition and the Renmark football team won all games during the day. All competitors performed very well at Martin's Bend for the Cross Country.

Some students have been successful to be named in training squads for selections to represent the Riverland at State Carnivals in Term 2. We look forward to hear if any students are successful. Good luck to all involved.

**Cross Country:** Brea, Isabella, Connor, Cooper, James, Ebony and Ella.

**Football:** Aidan, Jake, Connor, Dain, Jack, Cooper, Declan, Josh, Alex.

**Netball:** Tori, Taneesh, Ella, Brooklyn, Amy, Allira, Sasha, Ella, Renee, Ebony, Danielle, Ava.

Thank you Tayla & Shenae for umpiring.
**Garden Club Update**

- The weather is cooling down now and the winter seedlings are going good.
- Radishes have been planted between the peas and have come up.
- The snow peas are tall enough now that they have been trellised.
- Some of the coloured silverbeet is up.
- Next term the garden club will be planting cauliflower and broccoli in the remaining empty garden beds.

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**Parents & Friends Community**

Thank you to the parents who assisted the P&F provide hot cross buns for the students to enjoy last week. They were delicious!!

**FUTURE EVENT:** Please mark the 16th May on your calendars for a wonderful Comedy Cabaret performance by Hayley Ramsay. Tickets will be available from the front office next term, $25. The performance will be held at the Lutheran Hall from 7.30pm. There will be more details later.

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE LOTTERY:** This year we have been lucky enough to be accepted into the People’s Choice Lottery again which has the potential to raise thousands of dollars for our school. This year we are also able to purchase tickets on-line making it so much easier, therefore we will also be promoting this aspect as well as the booklets.

Simply follow the link below, fill out your details and card info and that’s it! You will be sent an email with the tickets attached.


More importantly, we can share this link throughout our many contacts and support the schools fundraising efforts to improve facilities, resources and learning opportunities for our students.

AND

You could possibly win an EARLY BIRD prize….

To kick-start online ticket sales, from now until 30 April 2015, tickets will be available online only. Tickets purchased online during this time will go into the draw to win the early bird prize - a Hyundai i20 worth $17,375 (drawn 13 May 2015). So, pass it around and GOOD LUCK!!

*Jordan Armes & Sarah Dining*